

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 18, 2005. Claims 1 to 32 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 24 and 28 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 11, 13, 14, 16 to 18, 22, 24 and 28 to 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent 6,490,052 (Yanagidaira). In addition, Claims 12, 15 and 23 were rejected under § 103(a) over Yanagidaira, and Claims 19 to 21 and 25 to 27 were rejected under § 103(a) over Yanagidaira in view of U.S. Patent 6,253,238 (Lauder). These rejections are all respectfully traversed, as explained in more detail below.

With respect to independent Claims 1 and 24, these claims define an invention concerning support for printer maintenance in a network environment having a server, at least one network device, and a printer. The server contains a plurality of printer configuration files. An HTML-based page is sent to the network device, wherein the HTML-based page is generated in correspondence to a printer and contains the names of printer maintenance functions from the printer's configuration file. Upon selection, in the network device, of one of the printer maintenance function names in the HTML-based page, the server sends to the printer the printer maintenance command which corresponds to the selected printer maintenance function name.

It is therefore one aspect of the invention that a printer maintenance command is sent by the server to the printer.^{1/}

It is a further aspect of the invention that the printer maintenance command is sent "upon selection in the network device of one of the printer maintenance function names in the HTML-based page".

It is yet a further aspect of the invention that the name of the printer maintenance function is contained in an HTML-based page that is sent to the network device.

Yanagidaira has been carefully studied, but it is not seen to disclose or to suggest any of the foregoing features, particularly as those features relate to the claims as a whole. The Office Action took contrary positions, from which Applicant is constrained to disagree.

For example, the Office Action took the position that since the language monitors 7 and 8 are installed in Yanagidaira's printer server, that they are therefore "part of the server" (Office Action, page 14). The phraseology used in the Office Action, "part of the server", fails to differentiate between Yanagidaira's printer server and Yanagidaira's web server unit 11. It is Applicant's understanding that the Office Action has taken the position that Yanagidaira's web server 11 performs sending of printer maintenance commands. However, Yanagidaira is clear that its language monitors 7 and 8 are not part

^{1/}In the Preliminary Amendment dated July 20, 2005, there were typographical errors that incorrectly stated that a "printer maintenance function command" is sent by the server to the printer, or a "printer maintenance function" is sent to the printer. These errors are regretted. As correctly stated above, Claims 1 and 24 include the feature that the server sends to the printer a printer maintenance command.

of web server unit 11, but rather are part of its printer server. In this regard, Yanagidaira very clearly differentiates between his printer server and his web server unit 11, both in his figures (Figure 1, for example, designates a "web server unit 11" as well as a "printer server side") and his text:

"The printer controller according to this embodiment is connected to a network to which host computer machines (hereinafter referred to as 'clients') are connected and operates on a printer server machine (hereinafter referred to as a 'printer server' which connects a single network shared printer or a plurality of network shared printers enabling bidirectional communication to a local port." (Yanagidaira, column 4, line 66 through column 5, line 5).

Thus, even with the interpretation given in the Office Action (to which Applicant does not necessarily agree), Yanagidaira's language monitors 7 and 8 are part of the wrong "server" since they are part of the printer server and not part of the web server.

Moreover, even with the interpretation given in the Office Action, Yanagidaira's language monitors do not send anything to a printer "upon selection in the network device of one of the printer maintenance function names in the HTML-based page". Rather, as explained in prior responses to Office Actions, Yanagidaira contemplates a polling situation in which the language monitors poll for changes in the printer information database for their respective printers. This is not the same as the present invention which is seen as responsive to a selection from an HTML-based page.

Finally, with respect to independent Claims 1 and 24, Applicant maintains his position that Yanagidaira does not show anything corresponding to printer maintenance functions, printer maintenance commands, or names for printer maintenance functions.

The Office Action (page 14) points to Yanagidaira's descriptions of an operation mode, power saving function or setting of a paper feed or ejection destination. Applicant does not understand how these might somehow correspond to "maintenance" functions. For his part, Applicant has disclosed examples of printer maintenance functions along the lines of functions to clean or to deep clean print heads, to print a test page, to print a nozzle check, or to clean rollers. These function all relate to "maintenance" of a printer, whereas the cited functions of Yanagidaira are completely unrelated to such a "maintenance" function.

Moreover, putting aside the question of whether Yanagidaira's functions are or are not "maintenance" functions, Yanagidaira does not disclose or suggest that the names of the printer maintenance functions are contained in an HTML-based page. Applicant has again reviewed the cited portions of Yanagidaira's columns 5 and 6, which the Office Action asserts discloses such a feature, but again finds nothing in these cited portions that describe the generation of an HTML-based page which contains names of printer maintenance functions.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that Yanagidaira does not anticipate the inventions defined in independent Claims 1 and 24.

With respect to independent Claim 28, this claim is directed to a printer maintenance method in a network environment having a server and at least one network device to which a printer is connected. Display data is sent from the server to the network device, wherein the display data contains identification for at least one printer maintenance function. A selection is received in the server from the network device or a printer maintenance function identification. A printer maintenance command is sent from the

server to the printer, wherein the printer maintenance command corresponds to the printer maintenance function identification selected in the network device.

Claim 28 has been amended so as to emphasize the connectedness of the network device and its printer. As defined in the preamble, the claimed network device is a "network device to which a printer is connected". The amendment to Claim 28 emphasizes this connectedness, by specifying that when sending the printer maintenance command from the server to the printer, the printer maintenance command is sent from the server "via the network device" to the printer.

The Office Action asserted that Yanagidaira's Figure 1 showed sending a printer maintenance command from a server to a printer. However, in Yanagidaira's Figure 1, both of its printers A and B are included on the printer server side and not on the network device side. As a consequence, Yanagidaira does not match the architecture contemplated in Claim 28, since its printers are not connected to a network device; and as a consequence, Yanagidaira fails to disclose or suggest at least the feature of Claim 28 in which a printer maintenance command is sent from the server to the printer via the network device.

Withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 28 is therefore respectfully requested.

REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW

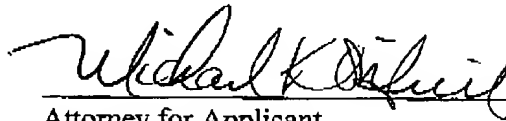
It is noted that the instant Office Action is the fourth Office Action in which rejections have been entered over Yanagidaira without a significant change in position in over two years of prosecution. An interview is therefore appropriate in this case, so as to advance prosecution more significantly.

In a telephone conversation with the Examiner on January 17, 2006, it was agreed that the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney when this case came up for action on his docket, before issuance of a further Office Action, in an effort to schedule an interview. For his part, the undersigned will also telephone the Examiner in a few weeks in an effort to determine the status of the application, and also to schedule an interview. Accordingly, however, if the Examiner reaches this case for action before an interview has been scheduled, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned for scheduling of an interview, as promised.

CONCLUSION

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant
Michael K. O'Neill
Registration No.: 32,622

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

CA_MAIN 107744v1